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. 1 -

OUTSIDE OFFICIAL REACTION TO STALIN'S DEATH

London

1. Stalin's death would shake the government and the people and that possibilities of tensions within the Kremlin were probably great.

2. Now is time for the greatest caution on the part of the West. Death of Stalin may arouse wave of patriotism which would react against any provocation. Dangers of miscalculation are at present greater on both sides due to unpredictable policies of new leadership.

3. Foreign Office stated that Churchill would undoubtedly be "itching" for a meeting between USSR and Western leaders and that it might be well to offer advantageous possibilities for such talks.

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(REACTIONS)

- 2 -

France

Foreign Office official raises interesting question whether Malenkov as a great Russian will be acceptable to Russian Soviet minorities--Stalin was a Georgian.

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(Reactions)

- 3 -

Yugoslavia

Tito believes Soviet hold on Satellites weakened especially Albania.

"Dictators never build up a successor."

(Psychological warrior)

Pijade believes Stalin's disappearance will seriously weaken Soviet - think new regime may undertake new adventures to cover up domestic situations.

Kardelj says Yugoslavia would rebuff overtures by new government - predicts disintegration of Cominform structure and weaken Soviet hold of satellites. Mao will grow. He "May even begin to instruct Moscow" - but China industrially dependent on Russia - eventually new purges.

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(Reaction)

- 4 -

India

Nehru believes new system for decision making must be created in Soviet since Stalin last word on everything.

Mao may try to become chief spokesman for the USSR--China Cominform movement. For immediate future Soviet policies tougher than under Stalin.

Indian Communist Party might become more allied to Peiping than Moscow.

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